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OTHER MATTERS

Proposal concerning location of United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Population Fund headquarters

Report of the Administrator

SUMMARY

The present report is submitted in response to Governing Council decision 92/44 of 26 May 1992, in which the Council requested the Administrator to examine the following three aspects of the proposal to relocate the headquarters of UNDP, UNFPA and UNIFEM to Bonn:

(a) Impact for the United Nations system as a whole;
(b) Impact for Member States;
(c) Programme-related, budgetary, legal and administrative implications.

The results of these three examinations are set out in addenda 1-3 to the present report.

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INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision 92/44 of 26 May 1992, the Governing Council took note with appreciation of the proposal submitted by Germany to host the headquarters of the United Nations Development Programme, of its affiliated funds and of the United Nations Population Fund in Bonn from 1996 onwards.

2. In paragraph 2 of decision 92/44, the Governing Council requested the Administrator:

(a) To examine in consultation with the members of the Programme the potential impact of such relocation on the objective of reforming the United Nations system of operational activities for development with a view to improving its coherence and efficiency and on cooperation with the international and regional finance institutions;

(b) To consult with the members of the Programme on the full range of logistical and related financial and administrative and representational implications for Member States of such a relocation;

(c) To examine in consultation with the relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat all programme-related, budgetary, legal and administrative implications of the offer;

(d) To provide a written report on the results of the implementation of the present decision to the members of the Governing Council, if possible by the end of 1992 but not later than 1 February 1993;

(e) To report on the matters to the Governing Council at its fortieth session (1993).

3. Following the adoption of decision 92/44, discussions were held with officials from the German Government and the United States of America as host Government as well as with the United Nations Secretariat concerning action to be taken in the implementation of the decision. The procedures followed to undertake the examinations requested in subparagraphs 2 (a), (b) and (c) of decision 92/44 are set out in sections I-III below. The findings of these examinations are set out in addenda 1-3 to the present report

4. It has been a constant aim to provide the information requested by the Governing Council in a factual and neutral manner. No UNDP, UNFPA or UNIFEM position regarding the proposal is advocated in the present report.

I. IMPACT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AS A WHOLE

5. The examination of the impact for the United Nations system as a whole, as requested in paragraph 2 (a) of Governing Council decision 92/44, has been carried out by the United Nations Secretariat. Following the suspension of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has, in a note of 22 January 1993 to the members of the Programme (reproduced in addendum 1 to the present report), asked for the views of their Governments on the impact

for the United Nations system as a whole of a move of UNDP, UNFPA and UNIFEM to Bonn, taking into account the outcome of the deliberations during the session, including in particular resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992 on the triennial policy review of the operational activities of the United Nations development system. The deadline for replies was 1 March 1993. However, only a few replies were received by 1 March and it was decided to await more replies before concluding the report on this subject to the Governing Council at its fortieth session.

6. The results of the examination are set out in addendum 1 to the present report.

II. IMPACT FOR MEMBER STATES

7. The implementation of paragraph 2(b) of decision 92/44 concerning the full range of logistical and related financial, administrative and representational implications for Member States of a relocation was discussed with representatives of Germany and of the United States of America. As a result of these consultations, a questionnaire (reproduced in addendum 2 to the present report) was elaborated and forwarded to all members of the Programme with a note from the Administrator dated 4 August 1992. The deadline for receipt of replies was 1 October 1992.

8. During the informal consultations held 29-30 September 1992, the Secretary of the Governing Council informed the Council that only six Governments had replied and he appealed to the members of the Programme to forward responses to the questionnaire as soon as possible.

9. The questionnaire was again forwarded to the members of the Programme at the beginning of October, with the exception of the dozen countries that had replied by then. A new deadline of 15 November 1992 was set for replies.

10. During the informal consultations held 19 January 1993, the Secretary of the Governing Council informed the Council that individual replies had been received from 37 members of the Programme. Attached to some of these replies was a letter from the Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) to the Secretary-General on behalf of the 35 member states of AOSIS.

11. The progress report distributed in February 1993 (DP/1993/INF/1) was based on the replies mentioned in the paragraph above. More replies have since been received and incorporated in the present report.

12. The findings of the examination are set out in addendum 2 to the present report.

III. PROGRAMME-RELATED, BUDGETARY, LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

13. In paragraph 2 (c) of decision 92/44, the Governing Council requested the Administrator to examine in consultation with the relevant departments of the United Nations Secretariat all programme-related, budgetary, legal and administrative implications of the offer.

14. The examination has involved a number of units in the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP and UNFPA. It has also involved consultations or briefing sessions on progress made with representatives of the Government of Germany and the United States of America as host Government.

15. A working group of representatives from the United Nations Secretariat, UNDP and UNFPA, chaired by the Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Finance and Administration, UNDP, and reporting to the Associate Administrator of UNDP, was established in September 1992. The working group was requested to undertake a study and establish a framework for identifying indicative costs and key issues that needed to be addressed.

16. The study was completed in February 1993. The report of the working group is contained in addendum 3 to the present report.